land in Srinivaspuri areas as per their entitilement as an alternative.

(b) When the plots were allotted by the then British India Government to the ruling Princes, Raises & Dewans, it was a strict condition that the premises would only by used for the personal occupation of the ruling Princes, Rasises & Dewans and they had no right to transfer this plot to anybody. It was subsequently decided by the Government of India in 1949 that permission for transfer of plots in these areas would be given on condition that lessee passed on the Central Government 75% of the unearned increase. According to this the Government of Maharashtra is eligible for 1.5 acres land in lieu of Sirmur Plot measuring about 6 acres which has since been offered to them.

Phasing Out of Naphtha as Fuel for Power Projects

1423. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have appointed an expert committee to gradually plase out naptha as fuel for power projects;

(b) if so, what are the recommendations made by the said committee and the decision taken thereon;

(c) what is the present demand for naphtha and projections for the next five years, via-a-vis domestic projections and export alongwith the general policy for its use as raw material for power and petro-chemical products;

(d) whether a number of power projects proposed in the private sector have sought import of naphta for power generaion under OGL; if so, the Government's reaction thereto and implications thereof; and

(e) whether Government have finalised the new liquid fuel policy for power projects, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES. (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

District Planning Committees in Gujarat

1424. SHRI AHMED PATEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether District Planning Committees envisaged by the Constitution (74th Amendment) Act have been constituted in Gujarat;

(b) if not, the districts in the State where such committees are yet to be constituted and the reasons for not constituting such committees so far; and

(c) by when these Committees are likely to be constituted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) to (c) Government of Gujarat has informed that no District Planning Committee has yet been constituted in the State. the Constitution (74th Amendment) Act, 1992 does not provide for any time limit within which the District Planning Committees should be constituted. The Government of Gujarat has intimated that they are taking suitable action for constituting such Committees within the available legal frame-work. At this Stage, it is not possible to indicate a definite time-frame within which these Committees would be set up.

Reported Multicrore Scam in Powergrid

1425. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "Powergrid in multicrore scam" appearing in The Hindustan Times

dated the 17th November, 1996; if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(b) what immediate steps Government have taken or proposed to take to book the culprits and correct the picture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir.

The news item broadly makes allegations about irregularities in the purchase of Emergency Restoration System (ERS) by POWERGRID and the utility of the equipment in Indian conditions. ERS was recently used on two occasions - once in the 220 kv Bairasiul-Pong Line where a tower had been endangered by land slide and for the second time in Tanakpur-Bareilly Line where an existing tower was likely to be damaged due to change in the river course. Preliminary enquiries into the matter reveal that the procurement of the various packages was done in accordance with well established procedures laid gown by the World bank for bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contracts.

Expenditure under Million Wells Scheme

1426. SHRI ANANTA SETHI : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of amount incurred so far on construction of wells under Million Wells Scheme, State-wise and year-wise since inception of the scheme, particularly in Orissa;

(b) whether Government have modified the scheme since October this year, to include tube-wells and borewells also; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Details are given in the annexure.

[*See* Appendix 179 annexure no 32]

(b) and (c) A proposal to include borewells/tubewells under the scheme has been under consideration in the Ministry for some time and preliminary instructions in this regard were issued to include borewells and tubewells w.e.f. 1.10.1996. The above instructions however are under review in the light of a proposal to have a comprehensive scheme involving formation of user groups and beneficiary participation for installing tubewells/borewells for small and marginal farmers below poverty line in pursuance of the PM's Independence Day address to the nation.

Implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes in North-East

1427. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has conducted any study regarding effective implementation of various Centrally sponsored Schemes in the North-Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps taken by Government to make these schemes more effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Planning Commission reviewed selected Centrally Sponsored Schemes in the States of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya and Nagaland during 1995-96. The list of Centrally Sponsored Schemes reviewed by Planning Commission is at statement I *(see below)*.

In addition, the Programme Evaluation Organisation, Planning Commission has also been conducting